

YA SPORTS FICTION



Baseball

YA Distractions



High Heat by Carl Deuker

Distractions YA F DEU

When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private school begins to fall apart.



Center Field by Robert Lipstyle

Distractions YA F LIP

Mike lives for baseball and hopes to follow his idol into the major leagues, but he is distracted by a new player who might take his place, an ankle injury, problems at home, and a growing awareness that something sinister is happening at school.



7 Days at the Hot Corner by Terry Trueman

Distractions YA F TRU

Varsity baseball player Scott Latimer struggles with his own prejudices and those of others when his best friend reveals that he is gay.

YA Fiction



Hard Hit by Ann Turner

YA F TUR

A rising high school baseball star faces his most difficult challenge when his father is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.



Basketball

YA Distractions



The Perfect Shot by Elaine Marie Alphin

Distractions YA F ALP

Brian uses basketball to block out memories of his girlfriend and her family who were murdered a year ago, but the upcoming trial and a high school history assignment force him to face the past and decide how far he should go to see justice served.



The rhyming season by Edward Averett

Distractions YA F AVE

A senior basketball-player shoulders the hopes of a dying mill town and her bereaved family when she and an eccentric English teacher-coach try to lead their team to state basketball history.



Stepping Up by Mike Fink

Distractions YA F FIN

Ernie Dolan, 14, is plagued by the curse of the average. Nothing about him stands out-- except his stutter. Only best friend Mike Rivers sees him at his best. Then, at a competitive basketball camp, Mike excels while Ernie is average.



Boy21 by Matthew Quick

Distractions YA F QUI

Finley, an unnaturally quiet boy who is the only white player on his high school's varsity basketball team, lives in a dismal Pennsylvania town that is ruled by the Irish mob, and when his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from an elite private school in California, he finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their apparent differences.



Black and White by Paul Volponi

Distractions YA F VOL

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.



The Final Four by Paul Volponi

Distractions YA F VOL

Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.

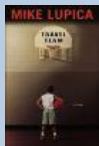


Rucker Park setup by Paul Volponi

Distractions YA F VOL

While playing in a crucial basketball game on the very court where his best friend was murdered, Mackey tries to come to terms with his own part in that murder and decide whether to maintain his silence or tell J.R.'s father and the police what really happened.

YA Fiction



Travel Team by Mike Lupica

YA F LUP

After he is cut from his travel basketball team— the very same team that his father once lead to national prominence— twelve-year-old Danny forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.



Boxing

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The Contender by Robert Lipsyte

Distractions YA F LIP

A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym, where he learns that being a contender is hard and often discouraging work, but that you don't know anything until you try.



The Ring by Bobbie Pyron

Distractions YA F PYR

Plagued by slipping grades and a budding criminal record, Mardie's heading down a path of self-destruction she can't seem to avoid. Then she discovers a girls' boxing club at the gym, and learns to believe in herself.



Football

YA Distractions



Leverage by Joshua Cohen

Distractions YA F COH

High school sophomore Danny excels at gymnastics but is bullied, like the rest of the gymnasts, by members of the football team, until an emotionally and physically scarred new student joins the football team and forms an unlikely friendship with Danny



Crackback by John Coy

Distractions YA F COY

Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.



Gym Candy by Carl Deuker

Distractions YA F DEU

Groomed by his father to be a star player, football is the only thing that has ever really mattered to Mick, who works hard for a spot on the varsity team his freshman year, then tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids



Payback Time by Carl Deuker

Distractions YA F DEU

Overweight, somewhat timid Mitch reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter for the Lincoln High newspaper because he is determined to be a writer, but he senses a real story in Angel, a talented football player who refuses to stand out on the field--or to discuss his past.



Shooting Star by Frederick McKissack Jr

Distractions YA F MCK

Jomo Rogers, a naturally talented athlete, starts taking performance enhancing drugs in order to be an even better high school football player, but finds his life spinning out of control as his game improves.

YA Fiction



Food, Girls and other things I can't have by Allen Zadoff

YA F ZAD

Fifteen-year-old Andrew Zansky, the second fattest student at his high school, joins the varsity football team to get the attention of a new girl on whom he has a crush.



Hockey

YA Fiction



Last December by Matt Beam

YA F BEA

Written in the form of a suicide note from a teenaged boy to his unborn sister, tells the story of how a ninth-grader comes to accept his less than ideal life after witnessing the struggles of a friend with serious depression.



Running:

YA Distractions

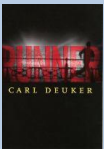


The running dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

Distractions YA F VAN

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

YA Fiction



Runner by Carl Deuker

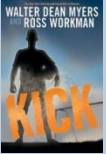
YA F DEU

Living with his alcoholic father on a broken-down sailboat on Puget Sound has been hard on seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor, but when his love of running leads to a high-paying job, he quickly learns that the money is not worth the risk.



Soccer

YA Distractions



Kick by Walter Dean Myers and Ross Workman

Distractions YA F MYE

Told in their separate voices, thirteen-year-old soccer star Kevin and police sergeant Brown, who knew his father, try to keep Kevin out of juvenile hall after he is arrested on very serious charges.

YA Fiction



Tangerine by Edward Bloor

YA F BLO

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.



Swimming

YA Distractions



Surviving High School by Max Doty

Distractions YA F DOT

Emily Kessler eats, sleeps, and trains for competitive swimming. All she has to do is keep her grades high and swim times short--short enough to live up to her sister Sara's. But walking the crowded maze of unfamiliar high school hallways is like diving headfirst into shark-infested waters, and the pressure builds to the point where she isn't sure she can stay afloat.



Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher

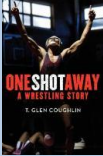
Distractions YA F CRU

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, shuns organized sports and gung-ho athletics at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.



Wrestling

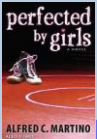
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One Shot Away by Glen T. Coughlin

Distractions YA F COU

Three high school seniors face mounting pressures, at home and school, as they start their last season on the varsity wrestling team.



Perfected by Girls by Alfred C. Martino

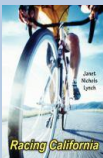
Distractions YA F MAR

Melinda Radford, the lone girl on her high school wrestling team, grapples family and school pressures for the opportunity to compete in a varsity match, something no girl in school history has ever done.



Biking

YA Distractions



Racing California by Janet Nichols Lynch

Distractions YA F LYN

High school senior Evan is conflicted when he is recruited for the prestigious Amgen Tour of California bicycle race by one of his heroes, and must decide whether to pursue his love of racing or go to college after he graduates from his Arizona high school.



Dead Run by Sean Rodman

Distractions YA F ROD

Bicycle racing is Sam's sport, and he wants to win--no matter what it takes.



Tennis

YA Distractions



Game on by Monica Seles

Sixteen-year-old tennis star Maya's dreams come true when she earns a scholarship to the Academy, a sports training facility/boarding school for teenaged athletes, but can she survive the constant drama of her talented classmates?

Distractions YA F SEL

Series



Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Titles: Dairy Queen, The Off Season, Front and Center

First book: After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

YA SER DAI



District 13 by Katherine Hengel, Alex Kushowski

Titles: Wings, Taking Control, No Easy Race, Line Up, Fighting the Legend, Down and Out

First book: Angel is counting on a baseball scholarship to go to college, but when his friend, Berto, accidentally injures him in a game he wonders if he'll ever play again.

YA SER DIS



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